

CLAIMS

We claim,

1. A method of treating liver steatosis in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering an agent capable of activating a ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) receptor.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent capable of activating the CNTF receptor is CNTF or a modified CNTF.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the modified CNTF is Axokine™.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein treatment results in one or more of improved liver function as determined by ALT/AST ratio, reduced stearyl-CoA desaturase-1 (SCD-1) gene expression or activity, enhanced the biochemical responsiveness of the liver to insulin, and/or reduced synthesis of complex lipids.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein liver steatosis results from alcohol consumption, obesity, and/or exposure to a hepatotoxin.
6. A method of improving liver steatosis in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject an agent capable of activating the CNTF receptor complex such that liver steatosis is improved.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the agent capable of activating the CNTF receptor is CNTF or a modified CNTF.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the modified CNTF is Axokine™.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein treatment results in one or more of improved liver function as determined by ALT/AST ratio, reduced SCD-1 gene expression or activity, enhanced the biochemical responsiveness of the liver to insulin, and/or reduced synthesis of complex lipids.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein liver steatosis results from alcohol consumption, obesity, and/or exposure to a hepatotoxin.